

Executive Director's Awards Luncheon

Written by Angelique Colemere, Executive Director's Office

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Salt Lake- Winners of the 2008 Executive Director's Awards were revealed at a luncheon held at Gardner Village on September 29. Prior to naming the winners, and in an Oscar Awards fashion, nominees were announced and asked to stand as Lisa-Michele Church, Executive Director, read highlights of their achievements. Award recipients were presented with a trophy and a cash award.



Jack Green, Child and Family Services (DCFS), was the recipient of the Executive Director's Award for his life long dedication to his work. Green has worked for the department for 19 years and has been involved in data systems, financial systems and internal review. He has spearheaded important accountability measures in DCFS and improved the agency's reputation. "Jack is always looking for the most effective way to provide services," stated Duane Betournay, DCFS Director, "he has a reputation for being approachable and always has a smile."

Supervisor of the Year was awarded to **Dr. Alisa Von Riotte**, Psychiatrist at Utah State Hospital. Von Riotte was nominated by her workers who as a result of her creative problem solving skills when working with patients. "She is a good example to all of us," noted her staff, "She is very eloquent and yet down to earth and all can relate to her caring air." Her dedication and out-of-the box thinking has earned her great respect from all of her staff.

Brent Platt, DCFS Provo, was the first recipient of the new **Cultural Excellence Award**. Platt is the Western Region Director and he works tirelessly for children and families. In addition to all he does, he is consistently reaching out to the various ethnic communities. "Brent is genuinely concerned about how to better serve minorities," said one of his staff members, "and looks for ways to do it constantly." Platt hosted an Immersion day, designed specifically for Hispanic providers, that was successful in educating community partners about the DCFS process and impacts on the Hispanic population.

Career Achievement Award went to the infamous **Dave Thomas**. Thomas has worked in DHS for over 30 years and produces all of the media and videos in the Department. "His media work has impacts far and wide," said Jody Talbot, "Many of his photographs adorn the walls of government buildings and homes of clients." Thomas' communication skills draw people to him

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and he is always steadfast in providing the best service. He has made a real difference in so many lives.

Over 150 Human Services employees attended the luncheon. Also recognized at the luncheon were employees with 20 or more years of service, including seven employees who have been with DHS for 35 years.



sa-Michele Church, Dr. Alisa Von Riotte, Dallas Meadows Church, Dave Thomas, Amanda Singer